

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

October 17, 2006

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman O’Neil.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Absent: Alderman Gatsas

Mayor Guinta stated I’d like to take a couple of minutes to talk about Officer Michael Briggs. We received some very sad news this afternoon with the passing of Officer Michael Briggs. On behalf of myself and Morgan and the people of the City of Manchester and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen I extend our most sincere condolences to the Briggs’ family and most especially to his widow and two young children. I also wish to extend our deepest regrets to our Police Chief John Jaskolka and the department of the Manchester Police Department. Today the people of Manchester join you in your grief and support you at this most difficult time. The fallen comrade died a hero and will be greatly missed by those in the community who knew him best. We will all cherish his memory. As the Mayor of the City of Manchester, I’m declaring an official period of mourning and ordering all flags lowered to half-staff until the day after Officer Briggs’s funeral. I ask that our citizens of all faiths and backgrounds honor the memory of Michael Briggs in their own appropriate way. My prayers and the prayers of my family are with the Briggs family. I’d also like to read a statement that was issued by the Briggs family this afternoon. And it reads as follows:

“Our hearts are broken by the loss of Michael. He was a wonderful son, husband, father, brother, and friend, who impacted our lives in a way that will be greatly missed. Being a police officer was his passion, and he made us all very proud. Michael loved his job and serving with his fellow officers. We are truly touched by the outpouring of compassion from the community and the unwavering support of all the police officers from Manchester and beyond. We mourn with you and know that Michael would be grateful for the concern that you have shown him and his family. It is a great honor to know that he was loved by so many.”

Mayor Guinta stated a couple of quick announcements I'd also like to make in case anybody hadn't heard the news yet. The Manchester Police Patrolmen's Association has set up a fund for the Briggs family, and anyone who wishes to donate can send a check to the MPPA Officer Briggs Family Benefit Fund, c/o Members First Credit Union, PO Box 896, Manchester, NH 03105. And donations can also be made at the Members First Credit Union branches. People have also asked about services. As you probably know, it's the wish of the family to determine the type of service that will be held. That announcement should be forthcoming sometime tomorrow afternoon by the family. They have every intention of trying to honor Michael in a most appropriate fashion, but they have asked that people give them a little time to talk amongst themselves to determine the most appropriate way that would occur. There's also been obviously several press conferences in the last couple of days. Most notably, at 5:15 this afternoon, the Chief, myself, and Attorney General Kelly Ayotte held a press conference. A number of points were identified, including that a gun had been recovered. I'm not sure yet if it is the gun, but it was found less than a couple hundred yards from the incident. And probably the most notable news was it was announced that the Attorney General intends to bring a capital murder charge to the grand jury, and after indictment intends to file her notice of intent to seek the death penalty. So I thought everybody should be aware of that. Again, if you have questions, you're a member of the public can have questions. We want to help this family. We'll be providing additional information in the coming days about phone numbers that you can contact, but that will be set up in the next couple of days. On a personal note, I want to thank the members of this Board for truly caring, not just about me and how this has impacted the City but how much you've clearly shown your care for the Police Department, for Michael Briggs, for his partner, for his family. I know all of you have talked with your friends, your constituents, your family, family members, and this is not easy for anybody. It's unfortunately almost thirty years to the day that an officer passed in the City. I know we all share the hope that this never happens again. And I certainly wish it didn't happen just a short couple of days ago. But it certainly impacted this community. I think we are in a period of mourning, but I personally, and I think probably all members of this Board share the view, that this is a resilient City and this is not going to in any way encumber our ability to protect the City and to put those who are responsible for this heinous crime in jail in New Hampshire and have him tried and convicted and hopefully upheld to the fullest extent of the law. But incidents beyond this. And I know that we have worked as a department, as a Board of Mayor and Aldermen in a unified fashion to make public safety a serious and significant issue. We're going to continue to maintain every level of vigilance to ensure that this City is a safe city. We're going to talk when the services are done, from a policy perspective, about what additional things need to occur, not just in Manchester but in the entire State of New Hampshire. As you know, Michael Addison, who is in Boston and wouldn't waive extradition, is also wanted in connection with several other incidents in and outside of Manchester. This is someone who I described earlier today as a coward, somebody who has no regard for the badge or the uniform, and clearly is an individual who deserves nothing

less than the fullest extent of the law, in terms of punishment. So if there's any member of the Board who would like to say something, I'd ask you to do so at this time.

Alderman Lopez stated I think you speak for all of us so at this time I don't think we need to really dwell on it because our feelings are as your feelings are and for the Briggs family.

Mayor Guinta asked are there any members of the public that would like to speak?

Will Infantine, 89 Winward Lane, Manchester, NH (Re: Crime) stated I'm going to stand in respect for Officer Briggs. Mr. Mayor, it's a coincidence that I was going to come speak to you tonight anyway about crime. It's unfortunate that I'm here this evening. Mr. Mayor, you and I have spoken a number of times about a no tolerance crime policy here in the City. Alderman Lopez, you and I spoke for about twenty minutes on Election Day, the Primary. They have no tolerance policies in Hampton Beach and at Foxborough Stadium during football games. You mouth off to a cop, you're in jail for three hours and you pay a fifty-dollar fine. You're drunk in public, you get in a fight, you're in jail for three or four hours and you pay a fine. It's more like a parking ticket. We need to keep our officers on the street and out of the courtroom. That's where they need to be. A line was drawn in the sand in this City yesterday. And I want to know who's going to win. Are the criminals and thugs from Massachusetts going to come up here into our City, or are we, the law-abiding citizens going to win? I respectfully demand that all you folks sitting here who are elected members of this Board do whatever you have to do in the next thirty or forty-five days to implement something like this, so our Police Officers can be on the streets, take care of the punks and thugs, continue to go after the businesses that bring in people undesirable to the City, and causing problems to our downtown. You have to draw a line in the sand and get rid of these people, and clean up this City. I respectfully request that it get done immediately so we can take back the City and have it the wonderful homes that we all want it to be. Thank you.

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Paul Mathews, 484 Chestnut Street, Manchester, NH, stated I think we all should have a moment of silence in behalf of Officer Michael Briggs. What I would like to see that the State of New Hampshire would spend the money and the City to spend money on equipment that would protect officers from head to toe from being shot. Bulletproof armors, including the helmets and bicycle helmets. Officer Michael Briggs was a friend of mine. He loaned me a dollar for a Coke. And I would like to see this coward to be hanged by his feet and

have the blood flowing down to his brain, instead of having him have lethal injection. Lethal injection would be too good for him. I want him to suffer for it. But that's just my anger. All I just want is that justice prevail. Lord Jesus Christ we pray that the family of Michael Briggs, that you keep a good eye on them, help them with their pain and suffering, and the whole entire Manchester Police Department, protect them and God just allow these officers to do their jobs and to get rid of these thugs who prefer to do evil in our towns. Pray this in Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

Mayor Guinta stated thank you Paul. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak?

Alderman Lopez stated Your Honor, for the privilege, because my name was used by Representative Will Infantine. I had discussion with the City Solicitor about our arrest laws. Although I agree with exactly what he's saying, I think that Mr. Arnold could provide us with the state law on the conversation I had as far as arrest policy or detaining somebody and putting them in jail for three hours, like what Hampton does, doesn't necessarily apply to the City of Manchester. If they want to change some of the state laws up there then that might be appropriate, but I think that Mr. Clark, I'm sorry I said Mr. Arnold could provide us information as Aldermen as to what the law is.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Long, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk